

OPC Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • FEBRUARY 2002

OPC Foundation Luncheon Honors 11 Future News Stars

by Lee Townsend

The 11 winners of the OPC Foundation scholarships were honored at this year's Foundation luncheon January 24 at the Yale Club in New York.

The fact that nine of the 11 were young women prompted the afternoon's featured speaker, NBC News anchor Brian Williams, to propose—tongue firmly in cheek—a “new endowment to allow males to compete on an equal basis.” Williams said he doesn't want young male journalists “coming up through the ranks thinking they're not going to amount to anything.”

Gender aside, the winners of the \$2,000 scholarships were a diverse and dedicated group of young journalists selected from essays by 120 students and each with a story to tell. For instance, one filed a very early account of the attack on the World Trade Center to a Chinese newspaper which nearly ignored it because the news hadn't yet moved on the government news agency wire. (See list of winners on page 4.)

Praising the OPC Foundation and the scholarship winners, Williams said “no money is better spent than the money to send them on to their careers.”

Williams said much has changed in television since he was a boy in Elmira,

NY. There were just a few channels then, he said, and you could tell what neighbors were watching by the pattern of lights coming through their curtains.

But then “we took the signal and exploded it,” he said. With 200 channels of television plus radio and print choices, the business has changed. But, he said, one thing hasn't changed. As a journalist you can tell you are in the right profession if your “heart goes pitter pat when you enter a newsroom.”

Williams is a regular substitute for anchor Tom Brokaw and has his own broadcast on MSNBC. In answer to a question, Williams agreed the media is very good at covering war and destruction but not as good “at covering what happens after the bombs drop,” after the fighting ends.

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Brian Williams, Anchor for NBC News & MSNBC, speaks to the Scholarship Luncheon

Responses to OPC Press Freedom Protests

by Norman A. Schorr
and Kevin McDermott

Freedom of the Press Committee

Governments are at times so intransigent in their response to protests of abused press freedoms that it can feel like a labor of futility to protest. But, at a minimum, protests remind governments that someone is watching. From time to time, there is even evidence that standing up for our colleagues can have tangible results.

When OPC called on the Czech Republic to end “the harassment of journalists and the media,” the government spokesman, Libor Roucek, replied, saying, “I fully agree with your view that democracy is a dialogue. The Czech state, indeed, is very committed

to encourage this dialogue.

“Democracy also means that every person and institution has equal rights and equal responsibilities before the law.”

The Czech Prime Minister has no power, the spokesman said, to influence the results of court decisions, as requested in the OPC letter, “to terminate the unwarranted persecutions and that is how it should be. The Czech Republic is a democracy and thank goodness for that.”

In responding to OPC's protest of the arrest in Minsk of more than 30 foreign and local journalists, illegal searches and destruction of equipment and exposed film, the Belarus government wrote us that all arrested journalists were released the same day. The Belarus letter

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OPC Receives Varied Responses To Press Freedom Protests, Appeals

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received from the country's Mission to the United Nations stated, "City officials apologized to them [the journalists] and on the result of investigation done, some policemen were punished." The Belarus letter also stated that "it avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Overseas Press Club of America of its highest consideration."

When we learned about the cruel murder in Northern Ireland of investigative reporter Martin O'Hogan, the committee appealed to Queen Elizabeth for help in arranging for a full investigation and prosecution of those responsible. O'Hogan had been a correspondent for the Dublin-based *Sunday World* who, according to the International Federation of Journalists, was working on an extensive investigation of links between terrorist groups and security forces.

Responses were received from Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street, and the Embassy of Ireland in Washington.

The minister for Ireland's Foreign Affairs, in Dublin, Brian Corwen, wrote, "This murder was a deeply shocking and cynical act. It was an attack on a dedicated and hardworking journalist and it also represented an assault on one of the fundamental principles of any democracy—an independent and unfettered media."

Another response to the OPC letter

was received from the office of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Dr. John Reid. He pointed out that Martin O'Hogan had investigated many paramilitary groups, particularly with respect to the organized crime aspects of their operation. A statement from the RHD (Red Hand Defenders) claimed that Mr. O'Hogan had been killed for, "Crimes against the loyalist people." The Police Service of Northern Ireland said that it believed that the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a splinter group of the Ulster Volunteer Force, was responsible for the murder.

Brief replies were also received from the Buckingham Palace Chief Correspondence Officer, who said that, "Her Majesty has taken careful note of your comments;" and from 10 Downing Street Direct Communication office, whose Justine Mansell said that the Prime Minister had asked for the contents of the OPC letter to be noted.

The OPC also expressed concern about the assault on *Taiwan Next* magazine in Taipei. Three days after the OPC letter was dispatched, the director of the Information Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York advised us that three suspects responsible for the attack had been arrested. "To protect freedom of expression and preserve a democratic society

in Taiwan, I believe that my government will prosecute the case to the fullest extent of the law," the representative stated.

These responses are not typical of all replies to OPC protests. While affirming their support for press freedom, some other countries have responded by defending their harsh legislation affecting the press and the media, or pointing out that the attacks on the newspapers and other media were prompted by the media's violation of laws affecting all businesses.

OPC, for example, had joined the International Press Institute and other press freedom advocates in suggesting that recent tax inspections of major media companies in South Korea were based on efforts to "muzzle" newspapers critical of the government.

The South Korean government denied this, saying that the investigations by the National Tax Service and the prosecution of media companies for tax evasion were fair and legitimate.

In his letter to the OPC, Park Joon-young, Minister and Government Spokesman, also expressed his "appreciation for your efforts to promote freedom of the press around the world and for your interest in the Korean press." The current administration "upholds freedom of the press more firmly than any previous administration. Consequently, it will actively take into consideration any opinion on the Korean press expressed by organizations such as yours."

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Covering the Coverage: More Fallout from Ground Zero

by Al Kaff

On Sept. 11, **Leonard R. Sussman**, former executive director of Freedom House and now its senior scholar in international communications, was in his Freedom House office 300 yards from the World Trade Center when the hijacked airliners struck. Sussman travels the world to measure press freedom. Freedom House's latest survey found that only 72 of 188 nations enjoy a free press. Now the war against terrorism poses new challenges, Sussman told an audience at the Center for Freedom of the Press in Puerto Rico at Universidad del Sagrado Corazon.

He said: "There is, indeed, a debate after the terrorist attacks over the question of press balance, national security, free speech and patriotism." He argued: "After warlike attacks on American cities and the already heightened conflict.... there is the natural expectation that news media will support a nation's defense. Yet, in a democratic society, the press should not be expected to yield its vital function as watchdog of governmental leaders. Indeed, in the crucial decision of life and death facing national leadership, it is essential to have an alert, inquisitive press that can report and interpret both governmental actions and citizens' reactions."

Delivering a commencement address at California State University, **Janis Besler Heaphy**, president and publisher of *The Sacramento Bee*, was booed off the stage when she called for protection of civil liberties in the U.S. government response to terrorism. "No one argues the validity and need for both retaliation and security," she said in her speech to 1,100 graduating students. **Janis Besler Heaphy** "But to what lengths are we willing to go to achieve them? Specifically, to what degree are we willing to compromise our civil liberties in the name of security?"

Heaphy was booed when she urged that citizens safeguard their rights to free speech, against unlawful detainment and for fair trials, **Timothy Egan** of *The New*

York Times reported. But she was cheered when she asked what would happen if racial profiling became routine.

MAN OF THE YEAR:

BIN LADEN

The Religion Newswriters Association selected Osama bin Laden as religion newsmaker of the year. One of the voters said bin Laden "has demonstrated, and not for the first time in history, how easily religions and religious fever can be hijacked to serve political ends." Past

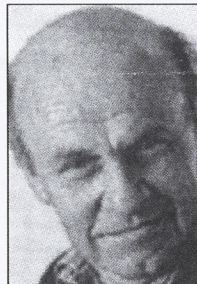


Osama bin Laden

selections by the association, composed of 240 reporters, editors and producers who report on religion in the U.S. secular media, include Pope John Paul, the Rev. Billy Graham, Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. **Charles W. Bell**, religion columnist for the *New York Daily News* wrote: "The choice of bin Laden as the top newsmaker, the association emphasized, is not an honor but a measure of the man or woman who most influenced the country's spiritual life for good or bad."

Several months after reporting from Afghanistan, two *New York Times* reporters wrote how the war touched them personally. **Amy Waldman**: "Even before the Taliban, Afghanistan was a society structured around men and their relationships.... Still, I never felt I counted for less as a reporter here, perhaps because Afghan men, like Afghan society, can contain seemingly irreconcilable contradictions. They can trade in sleazy pictures of Indian actresses even as they insist that their women be covered from head to toe. The same men who did not want their wives working never treated me with anything less than respect."

David Rohde: "I talked to a dozen foreigners who had come to Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban and had been captured by the Northern Alliance. All insist



Charles W. Bell

they were eager to die for their cause. One of them in particular, a young Pakistani, praised the attacks on the World Trade Center. When I say I was standing nearby and might have been killed, he says that would have been unfortunate. There are more puzzles than answers in this land without logic."

In an article from Quetta, Pakistan, in the December-January issue of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club magazine, **Richard Stokes**, a CNN satellite coordinator, commented that correspondents need "a place to test facts and trade gossip with a beverage close at hand. An FCC [foreign correspondents club] or press club, so to speak." With Quetta's Serena Hotel filled with correspondents from around the world, General Manager Barkat Mitha renovated Room 261 "to allow journalists to mingle in controlled freedom, with suitable tinkle available." The room was equipped with a dart board, a TV pre-tuned to CNN and Afghan floor cushions. A bottle of beer cost 120 rupees (about U.S.\$2).

MISSED DEATH, LOST JOB

Frankie Sakdalan, a former UPI correspondent in Manila, Hong Kong and New York, reported to "People" that 2001 "was bittersweet and very memorable for us.... On Sept. 11, I was crossing the North Bridge, which connected the World Trade Center's North Tower with 3 World Financial Center, when the first hijacked plane slammed into the North Tower." Ten days later, he lost his job at BridgeNews, because the financial news service was sold.

Frankie joined BridgeNews in its World Financial Center office in 1999 after UPI closed its New York bureau. When the new year dawned, he was looking for a job to help pay the mortgage on the apartment he and his wife **Lourdes** bought near the time of the September terrorism.

From Sept. 18 to Dec. 31, *The New York Times* published "Portraits of Grief," a daily feature of capsule profiles of people killed when two hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center. The profiles, each about 200 words, filled at least a page, sometimes two pages, in each issue of *The Times*. They were part

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OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners

At the OPC Foundation scholarship luncheon January 24, 11 students received prizes of \$2,000 each. Following is a list of winners, their colleges, the prize they won and a comment on each:

Misha Schubert
Columbia University
**ALEXANDER KENDRICK
SCHOLARSHIP**
*Sponsored by his brother
Victor and friends*

Schubert impressed judges with her well-reported account of how Aboriginal children in the Australian outback are sniffing petrol as an antidote to boredom and depression. But the practice "has become a tool of gradual suicide," she wrote.

Brad Wong
Columbia University
**DAVID SCHWEISBERG
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
*Sponsored by
the Schweisberg family*

Having traveled to China six times, Wong wrote movingly of the plight of China's "floating" population of 80 million to 110 million peasants who are unable to eke out a living in agriculture. "When people feel they have no alternatives in life, they pick up and migrate," he wrote.

Wei Gu
New York University
REUTERS SCHOLARSHIP
*Sponsored by the
Reuters Foundation*

As a student in New York, Gu jumped on the story of the attack on the World Trade Towers and filed it to a leading Chinese newspaper. But editors almost killed the story because it arrived before the story filed by the government's Xinhua news agency. Gu hopes freedom of the press will gain ground in China.

Jocelyn Wiener
Columbia University
I.F. STONE SCHOLARSHIP
*Sponsored by John R. MacArthur of
Harper's Magazine and friends*
Wiener traveled to the small Salvadoran town of Quezaltepeque and wrote about the plight of street children who are beaten and sometimes forced into prostitution



Scholarship Winners: Wei Gu, Carissa Wyant, Brad Wong, Riddhi Trivedi, Sara Schaefer, Misha Schubert, Jocelyn Wiener, Corinne MacLaggan, Angelene McLaren, Annelise Wunderlich, and John Cote.

to survive. She told of meeting an 11-year-old, Victor. "Malnutrition and drug use gave him the size and grace of a much younger child," she wrote.

Angelene McLaren
City University, Bellevue,
Washington
**IRENE CORBALLY KUHN
SCHOLARSHIP**
*Endowed by the
Scripps Howard Foundation*

A former U.S. Marine, McLaren traveled through Africa and witnessed female circumcision ceremonies in the Sudan. "An older woman sat in the center of the gathering with the oldest, rustiest knife in all civilization," McLaren wrote. "The first cut was made, and a scream I hope never to hear again rang loudly through the morning air."

John Cote
University of California at Berkeley
**H.L. STEVENSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Sponsored by family and friends
"I was traveling Eastern Europe with a resume stowed in my backpack and a vague notion I could find a job," Cote told the judges. "One found me almost immediately." Cote was traveling in the Ukraine when notified that he had won a scholarship. His key interest: parliamentary elections in March.

Riddhi Trivedi
Indiana University
STAN SWINTON SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by Helen Swinton

Based on her experience as a reporter in Gujarat, Trivedi described conditions endured by child laborers in the Indian jewelry business. "My parents sent me here to work because there was no food in my village," says 12-year-old Salaam as he hunches over a piece of gold that he is trying to soften over a burner.

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FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

(Continued from Page 1)

Williams doesn't limit the responsibility to the news media. "Once the army leaves, the nation wants to get back to normal," he said. He added that he doesn't know if the nation has "recovered too quickly" from the current crisis.

The scholarship lunch attracted more than 175 people to the Yale Club. Presiding over the presentation ceremony was William J. Holstein, President of the OPC Foundation.

Patrons of the lunch were Daimler-Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, NBC and Reuters.

Friend tables were bought by *Newsweek*, *Parade* and Philip Morris Companies.

Annelise Wunderlich
University of California at Berkeley
THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by
family and friends

Wunderlich described how African-Cubans in Havana, frustrated by their treatment under Castro, express themselves through music and dance. They entertain themselves "improvising, break-dancing, and listening hard to the American music coming from antennas they rigged on their rooftops to catch Miami radio stations."

Carissa Wyant
Wellesley
DAN ELDON SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by his mother,
Kathy Eldon,
and AOL Time Warner

In her essay, Wyant described the world through the eyes of a Palestinian spice merchant in the Old City of East Jerusalem. "I would like to see Jerusalem become an example for the world," says Ju'beh. "I want Christians, Jews and Muslims to live peacefully in this holy city. After all, we shouldn't forget that we all pray to one and the same God."

Sara Schaefer
Columbia University
**EMANUEL FREEDMAN
SCHOLARSHIP**

Endowed by
Eva and Tobias Bermant

Schaefer worked for a newspaper in Sarajevo and described the Dayton Café, which sat on the dividing line between the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Serb Republic. "Peace can be brokered at a table in a distant city," she wrote in her essay. But "seemingly impossible reconciliation often begins just under our noses, over a cup of coffee."

Corrine MacLaggan
University of North Carolina
ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by
friends and admirers

MacLaggan traveled to Vietnam to interview the young generation who were too young to remember "the American War" and were hungry for conversation about life in America and life in Vietnam. MacLaggan tells a funny tale of how one impish young shoe repairman glued her Teva sandals to the sidewalk.

OPC Holiday Party



Surrounded by new members, founder Bob Benjamin arrived from Mexico to be greeted by OPC President Larry Martz.



New members listen to two-time OPC award winner Laurie Garrett of Newsday. Next to Laurie is Jean Marc Dessureault of Quebec House and Milton Moskowitz, who came all the way from California for the party.



The Owl in his holiday finery.

COVERING THE COVERAGE

(Continued from Page 3)

of a special daily section, "A Nation Challenged," that reported the terrorism and the war that followed. On Jan. 1, *The Times* folded that section into the paper's regular first section. More than 1,800 sketches of Twin Tower victims (in late January the toll was listed at 2,876 dead or missing) were published during "Portraits of Grief" daily run before it became an occasional feature this year.

Times reporter Janny Scott wrote: "Reading 'Portraits of Grief' became a ritual for people nationwide. In hundreds of e-mail messages and letters to *The Times*, readers said they read them religiously, rarely missing a day. For some, it was a way of paying homage. Others said it was a means of connecting, a source of consolation." Novelist Paul Auster commented: "One felt, looking at those pages every day, that real lives were jumping

out at you....And the more we knew about them, the more we could wrestle with our own grief." A University of Michigan psychologist assigned the profiles as required reading for students and therapy groups. In Portland, *The Oregonian* started reprinting *The Times* profiles in mid-September.

On a trip to raise money for schools in Cambodia (see "People"), former *Newsweek* and *Fortune* correspondent Bernie Krisher and his wife Akiko were in Washington Sept. 11 with their daughter Debbie, who reports from Tokyo for Radio Free Asia, and her son Adam, then 11 months old. They watched the World Trade Center destruction on television. Bernie reported: "Adam who was still crawling at this stage suddenly stood on his feet and walked by himself to the TV pointing at the flames. That day now symbolizes all that is bad and good in life."



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

CENTREVILLE, Virginia: Arnold Zeitlan lost his job

when Freedom Forum closed its international offices last year (January *Bulletin*), including the Hong Kong-based Asia Center and Library that he directed, and he returned to his Virginia home. But he's keeping his ties with Asia. Back in the United States, he toured the Old South in December and January with two friends from China, one a Beijing news editor now studying at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and the other a student at the University of Connecticut. Arnold plans to return to China this spring to teach the 80 students in the new journalism school at Guangdong University. "The university wants an experienced journalist to help get their program going, and I'll be there in March and April, perhaps longer," Zeitlan told "People." He's a former AP correspondent in Asia who was booted out of the Philippines by the Marcos government and later manager of UPI's Asia-Pacific Division, based in Hong Kong.

DUBLIN: Faced with mounting losses, staff reductions and criticism from employees, Major **Thomas Bleakley McDowell**, 78, resigned in December as chairman of the trust that owns *The Irish Times*, Ireland's paper of record. The daily earned a \$6.3 million profit in 2000. But with advertising falling, management



Maj. Thomas Bleakley McDowell

reported: "In recent years he [McDowell] became a reclusive figure, almost never seen by his staff, even as he continued to serve as chairman of the trust and effective head of the paper. Major McDowell, wearing three-piece suits and using a pocket watch and monocle, struck reporters as a relic of a bygone age." Lavery wrote that McDowell received

said the paper lost \$2.3 million in 2001 and probably would lose \$20 million this year. Reporters, editors, ad salesmen and printers protested when they heard that 250 of 710 jobs would be eliminated.

Brian Lavery of *The New York Times*

"an annual salary of more than \$560,000, a chauffeur and a gardener, even though he had few day-to-day responsibilities."

HAVANA: Last October the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) adopted a resolution calling on Cuba to permit an independent press. But in November Cuban State Security prohibited **Raúl Rivero**, resident vice chairman in Cuba of the IAPA's committee on freedom of the press and information, from conducting a journalism training course. IAPA President **Robert J. Cox** of *The Post and Courier*, Charleston, South Carolina, said "prohibitions of this kind, in which discussion of ideas and training are regarded as unlawful, amount to acts of censorship and a frontal attack on human rights."

HONG KONG: In its first annual competition, the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of Hong Kong named freelancer **Christian Keenan** its 2001 photographer of the year for his black-and-white series on the Uyghur people of China's Xinjiang Province. First runner up was **John Stanmeyer**, *Time* magazine, for his photos documenting Indonesian President Wahid's last hours in office. Among others cited were **Anat Givon**, AP; **Rose Magno**, *Time*; **Regg Martin Cohn**, *Toronto Star*; and **Laurie Gilbert**, L'Image Cinematography.

◆ *The Correspondent*, the FCC's bimonthly magazine, is "in the black and loving it," **Paul Bayfield**, publications committee convenor, reported in the 60-page December-January issue. "After years of struggling to get advertising income to cover the costs, we are finally at break-even or better." Publishing both color and black-and-white photos, *The Correspondent* is edited by longtime Asia correspondent **Saul Lockhart**.

◆ **Bill Hartley**, a former *Wall Street Journal* correspondent in Tokyo and later a CNN financial reporter in New York, has retired, now is living in Hong Kong and has become a good cook, **Nancy Hartzenbusch**, widow of longtime OPC member **Henry Hartzenbusch**, told "People." Last year, Nancy, who lives in Arlington, Virginia, visited Hong Kong,

where she and her husband once lived, to see her daughter, **Lara**, a producer at the Asia network Star TV. Nancy recalled that she and her husband, an AP correspondent and executive, once visited the Shanghai house where Henry lived as a child with his German family. The house had been subdivided into apartments, and an entire family lived in what was Henry's bedroom.

JAKARTA: Two weeks after **Kate Webb**, then 28, was captured by North Vietnamese forces in 1971, *The New York Times* published a UPI dispatch



Kate Webb

under a two-column headline, "Missing UPI Correspondent Is Reported Dead in Cambodia," reporting that a body believed to be hers was found in south-western Cambodia and cremated on the spot. A box of bones said to be hers was delivered to a Reuters correspondent. Four of her colleagues wrote Kate obituaries. But a few days later, she walked to freedom, her bones intact.

Later on she moved to New Delhi where she nearly lost an arm and half her

Holmes to Speak On POW Claims

In February, OPC member Linda Goetz Holmes will discuss how research for her latest book has helped World War II POWs bring claims against Japanese corporations for their wartime labor.

A Pacific War historian, Holmes will speak Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 8 p.m. at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, followed by a reception and book signing. The event is free. Holmes invites OPC members to attend, confirming in advance by calling Aimee at the National Arts Club (212) 475-3424.

Four bills filed in the U.S. Congress were prompted by her book, "Unjust Enrichment: How Japan's Companies Built Postwar Fortunes Using American POWs" [Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 2001].

face was wiped off in a motorcycle accident. In Kabul, militia bashed her head on the floor and tore out a chunk of her hair. In New York City, stricken with malaria, she fell into a coma in her hotel room, her temperature 108 degrees.

"People always think I must be so tough to survive all this," Kate told **Vaudine England** of Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* who interviewed her for the December-January issue of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club's magazine. But

maybe that's what it takes—you have to be soft to survive. Hard people shatter."

After 35 years as a UPI and later AFP correspondent, Webb has retired at age 58, or at least from wire service journalism. The "People" correspondent can not believe she ever will retire. Born in New Zealand, Catherine M. Webb wore seamed stockings and miniskirts when she set out to learn journalism in Sydney. But she was seen more often in slacks, combat jacket and army boots while reporting from Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, South Korea, Philippines, East Timor, Hong Kong, the Persian Gulf War and Indonesia. Although she spoke with a voice so soft she could hardly be heard, Kate got the news and scored notable beats. She was 24 hours ahead of the competition on the death of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung and the first to report Cambodia Premier Lon Nol's stroke. She commented: "The weird thing is, I never thought I would live this long. I'm a geriatric teenager. I've been able to land like a cat on four feet. But people were good to me. Life is made up of breaks. It doesn't cost anything to give people breaks."

She said she was never bothered by lecherous men, betrayals and bugbears of some female colleagues. She deflected the advances of one boss with baluts, eggs containing an embryonic chicken, a Philippine delicacy: "I just slurped them down and the boss had to dash out to throw up outside."

When her retirement was announced, tributes poured in. **John Macbeth**, *Far Eastern Economic Review*: "A Kiwi like myself, Kate Webb cut her teeth in journalism in a different era when instant television was unknown, when media packs were smaller and when the wire agencies were king."

Jim Pringle, *The Times* of London: "I never felt the lash of her tongue—with its ripe expletives—or the power of her fist myself. But she is the only lady I ever met who could ask a man to step outside to settle matters, and the only woman who could make a tough Korean general flinch."

LONDON: A December dinner party in the home of newspaper publisher **Conrad M. Black** touched off what **Warren Hoge** of *The New York Times* described as "a drawing room scandal." Black's wife, **Barbara Amiel**, is a columnist for one of his papers, *The*

Daily Telegraph, and she reported on the dinner: "Recently, the ambassador of a major E.U. country politely told a gathering at my home that the current troubles in the world were all because of [Israel, the ambassador using a vulgar term in describing Israel]. 'Why,' he asked, 'should the world be in danger of World War III because of these people?'"

The Times of London identified the ambassador as Daniel Bernard of France.

Yves Charpentier, press counselor in the French Embassy, said: "He does not deny the remarks, he just says first of all what he said was distorted. Secondly, what he said was in a private dinner among friends and



Daniel Bernard

was not supposed to be put in the press the next day." Charpentier said the ambassador was trying to make the point that events in a country no bigger than three French counties could have such worldwide impact.

Marc Roche, London correspondent for *Le Monde* of Paris, wrote that the ambassador became "the latest victim of the indiscreet Lady Black [Barbara Amiel]." Hoge of *The NY Times* commented: "*Le Monde*, as far to the left as *The Daily Telegraph* is to the right, noted that the offending article appeared in a paper it said was reactionary, paranoid, notoriously error-filled and unceasingly preachy about the sanctity of private comment."

MANAMA, Bahrain: In January a court in this Persian Gulf Arab emirate overturned an information ministry ban that prohibited journalist **Hafez al-Shaikh** from writing. The ministry charged in December that Shaikh violated press laws by writing articles the government said incited sectarian strife. Reuters reported: "Bahrain is moving toward a less restrictive political system under the emir, Sheik Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa. Hundreds of political prisoners have been freed and the emir has promised to revive Parliament, closed since 1975."

MOSCOW: After legal battles silenced the independent NTV television network last year, Moscow Higher Arbitration Court on Jan. 11 struck

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Welcome to Our New Members

Harry Benson

Photojournalist
active resident

Jack Casserly

author and retired correspondent
INS/ABC News
Prescott, Arizona
reinstatement

James Craig

Bureau Chief
Bloomberg News
Sao Paulo, Brazil
active overseas

Glenn Hall

Team Leader
Bloomberg News
Amsterdam, Netherlands
active overseas

Suzanne Hill

Bureau Chief
Bloomberg News
Hong Kong
active overseas

David Scanlan

Bureau Chief
Bloomberg News
Madrid
active overseas

Dana Thomas

Cultural & Fashion Writer
Newsweek
Paris
active overseas

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

George Bookman, chair
Elinor Griest
Marshall Loeb
Dwight Sargent

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

against another independent network, ordering TV-6 to liquidate within six months. The process was hastened Jan. 21, when a court ordered Russia's Press Ministry to shut down the network. **Michael Wines** of *The New York Times* reported from Moscow: "Civil liberties groups expressed fear that the decision signaled an erosion of the news media's freedom in a nation where two of the three major television networks are state-run and the third is owned by a state-controlled monopoly." **Boris Berezovsky**, who controls TV-6 from self-imposed exile in London and who is a critic of Russian President Vladimir V. Putin, called the court's ruling part of a Kremlin attempt to take control of Russia's media. **Richard A. Boucher**, U.S. State Department spokesman, said the ruling "adds to the already strong appearance of political pressure in the judicial process against Russia's independent media."

NEW YORK: Scheduled to start publication this spring, *The New York Sun* will highlight news of the city to fill what its editors call a void left by *The New York Times*' national expansion. The new newspaper will publish Mondays through Fridays. Editor will be **Seth Lipsky**, a former *Wall Street Journal* editor in Hong Kong, Brussels and New York and



Seth Lipsky

president and editor of the *Forward* from 1990-2000 (January *Bulletin*). *The Sun* will be based at 105 Chambers Street, near the building occupied by the original *New York Sun*, published from 1833-1950.

After more than six years in New York as North America bureau chief and editor-at-large for Bungei Shunju, a major Japan book and magazine publisher, **Ko Shioya** returned to Tokyo in January for a new assignment with the company. His last visit to the OPC was Nov. 28 for the Japan program. Ko, whose command of English matches any American, told "People" he expects the publishing company will send him back to New York in a few years. Before joining Bungei Shunju, Ko was an AP correspondent in Tokyo and later a *Reader's Digest* editor.

PARIS: *Le Monde* announced in January that it will brighten the paper's staid look with more photographs and, with the euro replacing the franc, increase coverage of European institutions, finance and the stock market. When it was near insolvency seven years ago, *Le Monde* "remade itself, subtly but firmly, by separating editorial content more clearly from news and by giving more emphasis to the economy," **John Tagliabue** of *The New York Times* reported. *Le Monde* is not facing a crisis now but current slowdown in the French economy is cutting advertising revenue, especially help-wanted ads. **Edwy Plenel**, *Le Monde*'s editor, said when the ad market revives the paper will increase coverage of sports and cultural events and start a new weekend magazine.



Doris and Ted Macauley

Ted Macauley of *Forbes* was two years old in 1950 when he moved from Vienna to Paris with his parents. Late last year, he wrote to his mother, **Doris Macauley**, recalling their life in the historic Lutetia hotel when Paris was "getting back on its feet, few cars in the streets, the Left Bank not yet trendy." Doris, an OPC member since 1939, told "People" that Ted's report "should interest OPC members who recall the old Lutetia in Paris."

Ted wrote: "I have fond memories of a jovial red-faced concierge, named Monsieur Roger. I fondly recall the elevator cage and its shiny brass door carrying the emblem of the City of Paris, which the Lutetia appropriated. I recall brass letter slots on each guestroom door and brass beds in the rooms. Chamber pots were discreetly placed in Louis XVI night tables. Both the Eiffel Tower and the Bonne Marché were magically visible from our room. The hotel stationary carried a three-mast ship on its letterhead symbolizing the arrival of the Romans in Lutece (the early name for Paris)." Ted reports that "as most things French, time has been good" to the

hotel, now a part of the Concorde Hotels, "and strangely enough not that much has changed."

Summing up last year for *Newsweek*'s **Jennifer Barrett, Jean-François Julliard** of the global organization Reporters Without Borders said: "There was a sharp deterioration in press freedoms. It was a very bad year for journalists all over the world. Burma, North Korea, China. It is quite impossible for journalists to do their jobs in those countries." The Paris-base organization reported that 31 journalists were killed in 2001, including eight in Afghanistan. The organization said 489 journalists were arrested last year compared with 329 the year before. Countries holding the largest number of journalists in prison were Iran, Myanmar, China, Eritrea and Nepal.

A higher death toll was reported by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists: 37 journalists killed last year in 22 countries, compared with 24 slain in 2000. "The dramatic rise is mainly due to the war in Afghanistan," the Committee said. "Most of the journalist who were killed last year, however, were not covering combat. They were murdered in reprisal for their reporting on official corruption and crime in countries such as Bangladesh, China, Thailand and Yugoslavia." **Ann Cooper**, the Committee's executive director, said: "Whether the perpetrators are paramilitary groups in Colombia or corrupt officials in Thailand, the message is clear: journalists who report on illegal activities will receive a death sentence."

Feng Zhaoxia was the first journalist killed in China since the Committee started keeping detailed records. Feng, who reported for Xi'an's *Gejie Daobao* on criminal gangs and their links to corrupt politicians, was found in a ditch with his throat cut. His family and colleagues believe Feng was killed for his reporting. Police ruled his death a suicide, the Committee said.

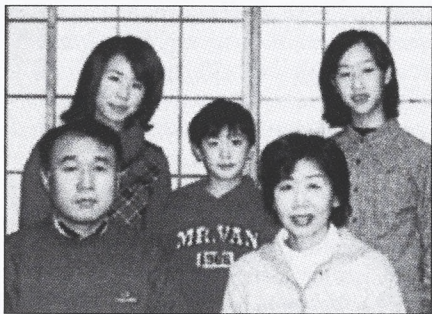
PRESCOTT, Arizona: As the New Year dawned, **Jack Casserly**, author and former INS, ABC News and Hearst correspondent in Asia, Europe, Washington and New York, was reinstating his OPC membership. He reported to "People" that he and wife **Joy** "had a tough Christmas. Our dog punctured both lungs and has been fighting for his life. We drove him 120 miles to a round-the-clock care clinic in Mesa, Arizona. He is home

now but very weak. The punctures are closing by themselves. We are still trying to figure out how they occurred."

ROBIB, Cambodia: **Bernie Krisher** reported in December that he has surpassed his goal of building 200 rural schools in Cambodia. Donations from the United States, Japan, United Kingdom and Hong Kong provided funds for 206 schools of which 110 have been built, 40 are under construction and the others under appraisal or approval. After collecting relief supplies for North Korea, Krisher, 69, a former *Newsweek* and *Fortune* correspondent in Tokyo, turned to Cambodia where he founded the *Cambodia Daily*, published in English, Khmer and Japanese, to promote a free press and train young journalists; raised money to build a hospital, established village schools and equipped them with computers powered by solar panels.

Bernie and his wife **Akiko** spent the last week of 2001 in Robib, a village without running water, electricity or telephones. Krisher established a plant to weave silk scarves in Robib, where annual per capita income equals U.S.\$37. The scarves are marketed on the Internet (www.villageleap.com) to support medical care for the poor. Krisher reported that during the year he met "with Cambodia's prime minister, Hun Sen, who had been reluctant to meet me before because my independent newspaper, the *Cambodia Daily*, has not always printed what he would like to read."

TOKYO: During the 1970s and 1980s, Jiji Press, Japan's national economic news service, sent a young reporter each year to New York City to work as an intern at UPI. The Wire Service Guild, the union that represented UPI and AP employees, did not require that the intern be paid the contract wage, but the union ruled that the Jiji intern could cover only stories of Japanese



Sakai family

interest. Now Jiji is sharing its expertise with reporters from other Asian nations. **Hidetoshi Sakai**, a former Jiji intern in New York, reports he and other Jiji reporters worked with two journalists from Malaysia in 2001. Sakai also "spent busy days while trying to realign Jiji's English news services to survive the Internet age." Sakai was the first Jiji intern to become a parent while working in New York when his wife, **Ruriko**, gave birth to daughter **Ayako**, now 17, first of their three children. Ruriko now teaches English conversation to neighborhood children in Chigasaki, the resort town south of Tokyo where the Sakais live.



In 1923, **Karl Bickel**, president of United Press, was in Moscow helping **Jacob Doletzky** improve operations of Rosta, then Russia's official news agency. Bickel was about to return to New York in September when word came of the great Kanto earthquake that caused wide destruction and 143,000 deaths in Tokyo and Yokohama. Instead of going home, Bickel took the trans-Siberian railroad and then a ship to Japan. At that time the Osaka *Mainichi* received UP dispatches through Nippon Dempo agency. But **Baron Motoyama**, head of the family that owned *Mainichi*, agreed with Bickel to receive UP news direct for \$1,000 a month.

Immediately after World War II, UP expanded beyond *Mainichi*, selling its report to Kyodo, Japan's national news agency. The *Mainichi* and Kyodo contracts became among UP's biggest money earners in the world. News from UP, renamed UPI in 1958, went to every daily newspaper and broadcaster in Japan. But faced with revenue problems, *Mainichi* canceled its UP contract several years ago.

Just before 2002 dawned, **Teiji (Ted) Shimizu** reported to "People: "UPI's long relationship with Kyodo is coming to a formal end soon. That means there will be no Japanese papers—either *Nihongo* or English—that will carry UPI-Kyodo logo." Shimizu, now 67, joined UP as a copy boy shortly after World War II, rose to Japan news editor and then worked as an editor at Kyodo until retiring.

ULAN BATOR: While "hampered by legal, social and financial barriers," investigative reporting is increasing in Mongolia as the nation moves from communism to democracy, **Eric Johnston**

wrote in *No. 1 Shimibun*, monthly paper of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. He reported: "Enjoying their newfound freedom of the press, but still constrained by law and custom, Mongolia's investigative journalists are, for the most part, very young and eager to ferret out corruption, but unsure as to how to do it in a manner that promotes public trust." Johnston quoted S. Oyuun, director of Mongolia's Zorig Foundation, created to advance democracy: "Mongolian journalists receive very little salary, and are often paid by the article. Furthermore, there is a tradition in Mongolia of paying sources for information."

VIENNA, Virginia: His memories of World War II sharp and vivid, **Boyd Lewis**, 96, has just recorded a two-hour oral history of war correspondents for the Freedom Forum's Newseum in Arlington, Virginia. Boyd was a UP correspondent in Europe during WWII and later the wire service's European news editor. In January, Boyd told "People" he keeps

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Another Vietnam: Pictures from the Other Side

At International Center
of Photography
1133 Avenue of the Americas
(at 43rd Street)
New York City

OPC member Tim Page, has compiled a book of photography taken by North Vietnamese during the "American War." These recently discovered photographs and film footage, never seen before in the West, form the basis of an exhibit at ICP sponsored by National Geographic.

The Vietnamese soldier/photographers viewed their work as part of the war effort, and as powerful as the gun.

Tim Page was co-author with Horst Faas on a 1997 OPC Award-winning book "Requiem: By the photographers who died in Vietnam and Indochina."

The exhibition will be on view through March 17, 2002.

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busy with his post-retirement hobby, painting oil pictures.

WASHINGTON: OPC member **Irv Chapman** wrote a New Year note to "People" on a "Peanuts" postcard published in Japan: "It's amusing to read what onetime colleagues are up to in the *OPC Bulletin*—though it's a hefty subscription price for someone who can't attend functions in New York." Now a senior television correspondent for Bloomberg News, Irv's career includes ABC News in Asia, Vietnam War correspondent, Cornell News Service director and CNN Business News reporter.

◆ In a reorganization at *Stars & Stripes*, **Dave Mazzarella**, a former *USA Today* editor, was promoted from ombudsman to editorial director of the military newspaper. Executive Editor **Bill Walker's** editorial duties were divided up with Mazzarella putting out the paper and Walker dealing with administrative and bureaucratic matters. But Walker, who joined S&S in Europe in 1973, refused to accept what he called "a demotion to a phony position of supervising no one." Walker left the paper, contending he was "being separated from the company by the publisher for refusing to accept the demotion." Publisher **Thomas Kelsch** put it differently: "I positioned both [Mazzarella and Walker] in their strongest areas of expertise. Bill told me he intended to leave at that point. I continue to urge him to stay."

CORRECTION: Curt Prendergast, not Pendergast, was honored at the November Korean War remembrance program in Worcester, Massachusetts (December *Bulletin*). The "People" columnist, who misspelled the former *Time* correspondent's last name, blamed his error on growing up near Kansas City, Missouri, in the 1920s and 1930s, when political boss Tom Pendergast ruled that city and *The Kansas City Star* railed against him. In a note to "People," Curt commented: "Only our contemporaries ever heard of Tom."

IN MEMORY

Wang Ruoshui, 75, a longtime editor at China's official *People's Daily* who was fired because of his liberal views, died of lung cancer Jan. 10 in a Boston hospital. He was spending a year in the

United States with his journalist wife, **Feng Yuan**, a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. An early supporter of Communism, Wang joined *People's Daily* in 1950 and became editor of its theory page. In the early years of the People's Republic, Chairman Mao Tse-tung called him a "promising young man." Wang remained a Marxist until his death, but he came to believe that a socialist country like China could and should permit free speech, human rights and rule of law. He was removed from the *People's Daily* in 1983, stripped of Communist Party membership in 1987 and generally not allowed to publish in China although continuing to live in the *People's Daily* compound. From Beijing, **Elisabeth Rosenthal** of *The New York Times* commented on Wang: "A quiet, thoughtful man, he never shrank from interviews with journalists, who valued his analysis of events."

◆ **Walter H. Waggoner**, 84, a former *New York Times* correspondent in Europe, died Jan. 9 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, of complications from a fall and surgery. After three years as a *Wall Street Journal* reporter in Washington, Waggoner joined *The Times* Washington bureau in 1944. In 1955, he opened *The Times* bureau in The Hague, moved to the London bureau in 1958 and transferred to New York in 1961 as a general assignment reporter. He worked as a suburban and city editor before retiring from *The Times* in 1985. Waggoner was president of the State Department Correspondents Association in 1952 and 1953.

◆ **Tomoo Hirooka**, 94, a former editorial writer, financial editor, managing editor, president and chairman of *Asahi Shimbun*, one of Japan's national newspapers, died of prostate cancer Jan. 5 in a Tokyo hospital. He joined the newspaper in 1932 and retired in 1980.

◆ Born into wealth, **Benjamin Welles** was a *New York Times* international correspondent who wrote a book that reported a sexual scandal involving his late father, Sumner Welles, a foreign policy adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After graduating from Harvard in 1938, Benjamin Welles became a copy boy at *The Times*, rising to reporter. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, assigned to North Africa and the Middle East with the Office of Strategic Services, precursor of the CIA.

Returning to *The Times* in 1946, he spent 17 years as a correspondent in China, London and Madrid. He covered the Hungarian revolution and the Algerian war against the French. Returning to Washington in 1963, he wrote about national security before retiring from *The Times* in 1972. During the Reagan administration, he was a deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

In his book "Sumner Welles: F.D.R.'s Global Strategist" [New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997] (March 1998 *Bulletin*) Benjamin Welles explained why his father suddenly and mysteriously resigned as U.S. Under Secretary of State in 1943 and never returned to public service. The son wrote that on a 1940 overnight train trip with Roosevelt and cabinet members, Sumner Welles, then 48, drank heavily and about 4 a.m.



Benjamin Welles

demanding sexual favors from several Pullman porters. The FBI and Secret Service delivered a report on the incident to Roosevelt. The President did nothing about it until 1943 when the report became ammunition in a feud between Welles and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, forcing Roosevelt to ask for Welles resignation.

Benjamin Welles, who was born in Kamakura, Japan, when his father was third secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, died of cancer in Washington Jan. 2 at age 85.

◆ **Mark B. Lewis**, 78, a retired U.S. Information Agency (USIA) officer who served in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, died of cancer Dec. 28. He lived in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Lewis joined Voice of America in New York in 1949 and reported from the White House, 1955-1957. He then served with USIA in Lebanon, Egypt, India, Rhodesia and Ghana; became the Agency's assistant director for African affairs; and, from 1969-1974, director of the State Department's cultural presentations office. After retiring from the government, Lewis worked as director of International Symposia, a government-funded organization that organized educational, cultural and artistic events in 30 U.S. cities to advance understanding of other countries. From 1984-1993, he was

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communications director of the National Organization on Disability and then did freelance writing.

◆
Adalbert de Segonzac, 89, a French journalist who reported from London, Washington, Middle East and China, died of cancer Dec. 27 at his home in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. At age 20, before World War II, he broke into journalism by sparring with a celebrated French boxer and writing a first-person account of the experience for *Paris-Soir*. From 1935-1939, he was the paper's sports columnist in London. He joined a French infantry unit when WWII broke out, was wounded in combat in June 1940 and escaped Nazi-occupied France, eventually reaching England, where he became a Spitfire pilot with the British Royal Air Force. Shot down over the Rhine River in November 1944, he was captured by the Germans and held prisoner until Germany surrendered. After the war he joined the new French daily *France-Soir*, serving as London correspondent and, from 1956-1976, its chief U.S. correspondent based in Washington, where he was known as "Ziggy." He was a former president of the Foreign Press Association in Washington.

◆
Julian M. Weiss, 49, a freelance journalist who reported on Asia and founded the Washington Roundtable for the Asia-Pacific Press, died of cancer Dec. 11 at a Washington, D.C., hospice. He made his first trip to Asia in 1979 on an assignment from *The Christian Science Monitor*. From 1977-1993, Weiss was Washington correspondent for *Asiaweek*, a Hong Kong-based weekly news magazine, and a contributor to *The Economist*, *The Journal of Commerce*, *Asian Wall Street Journal* and other publications. He joined the Heritage Foundation as an international communications fellow in 1993 and also was a senior fellow at the University of Maryland's Institute for Global Chinese Affairs. In the 1980s, Weiss founded and served as executive director of the Washington Roundtable for the Asia-Pacific Press, an organization that grew to more than 400 print and broadcast correspondents from 19 countries.

◆
Enrique Santos Castillo, 84, editor of Bogotá's *El Tiempo* for more than half a century, died of a heart attack Nov. 25. He joined the newspaper in 1942 as managing editor and later became its editor.

"Although he rarely wrote for the paper he would proofread all the contents before publication and guide the news coverage," the *Inter American Press Association News* reported. His brother, **Hernando**, was the paper's foreign news editor. *El Tiempo* was founded by their father, **Enrique Santos Montejo**, a columnist who wrote under the pen name Calibán, and two uncles, former Colombian President **Eduardo do Santos Montejo**, and former Bogotá Mayor **Gustavo Santos Montejo**.

◆
Sir **Gerardus J. Schouten**, 85, who founded *The News*, an English-language newspaper in Oranjestad, Aruba, in 1951, died Oct. 22. Schouten, the newspaper's publisher, was regional vice chairman for Aruba of the Inter America Press Association's committee on freedom of the press and information.

◆
Even his competitors admired **Paul Vogle**. Paul, who died last year at age 69 (October *Bulletin*), covered the Vietnam War for UPI from 1967-1975. A seven-

page eulogy, "The Last Good Bye," was distributed to friends and colleagues several weeks after his death and included these comments: **George Esper**, AP: "Paul Vogle was a rare individual. The type of gentle soul one can never forget." **Dan Cameron-Rodill**, CBS News: "To know Paul was to realize there was still something and someone good and decent among all the depravity of a war that ripped Vietnam apart. His unselfishness and high degree of professionalism is what I will remember the most." **Glenn MacDonald**, who served in Vietnam as a U.S. Army combat reporter and later as a civilian war correspondent, wrote the eulogy that capsulized Paul's career, noting: "Only **Matt Franjola** of the AP could come close to speaking and understanding Vietnamese as well as Vogle. Correspondents fluent in the language were rare indeed during the more than 10 years the United States military was fighting in Vietnam. His [Vogle's] ability to simultaneously translate from Saigon Radio and write a story on the UPI wire was legendary."

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

during a time when the Russian government discouraged any independent reporting on the war. "I have to go because nobody else is going, and if nobody goes, then no one will know what is happening," she told **Celestine Bohlen** of *The New York Times*. In December, Politkovskaya, 43, was in the United States to promote her book, "A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya" [Harvill Press and Farrar, Straus & Giroux]. Bohlen interviewed her and wrote: "She has been publicly lambasted by government spokesmen and handled roughly by the state security police. Her editors have received phone calls from the Kremlin and television producers have suddenly (and inexplicably) canceled her appearances on state-supported stations....The death threats from [a major in the Russian Interior Ministry], whom she accused of assisting in murder and torture in Chechny, forced her to leave Russia for a time."

• After living two years in Paris,



Anna Politkovskaya

Mary A. Kelly, travel editor of the *International Herald Tribune*, visited her native Connecticut late last year and told *Connecticut Post* that she loves the grandeur of Paris' historic buildings and the intimacy of Parisian cafe and bistro life. She and French artist **Fabrice Moireau** put that love in "Paris Sketchbook" [New York: St. Martin's Press]. The *Post's* **Joe Meyers** reported: "In her text, Kelly also explores the city's unique relationship with the movies, starting with the invention of the medium there in 1895 by the Lumiere brothers. 'If filmmakers have always loved Paris, Parisians also love film. The city has hundreds of screens; going to the cinema is not just a pleasure, it is a national pastime,' Kelly points out." Before her Paris work, Kelly was editor of Cairo's *Egypt Today* for eight years.

NORTH AMERICA

• "New York Exposed" [New York: Abrams] is a collection of more than 80 years of New York *Daily News* photographs of gangland slayings, prize-fights, movie stars, the Finest, the Bravest and other figures from the Big Apple. OPC member **Pete Hamill** wrote the introduction to the collection that was edited by **Shawn O'Sullivan**.

New Books

GLOBAL

• **James F. Hoge Jr.**, editor of *Foreign Affairs*, and **Gideon Rose**, the magazine's managing editor, collected essays on the Sept. 11 terrorism and its aftermath for "How Did This Happen?: Terrorism and the New War" [New York: Public Affairs Report]. The writers are among foremost U.S. experts and analysts of the topics they address. **Karen Armstrong** writes on Islam, **Laurie Garrett** on bioterrorism, **Gregg Easterbrook** on airline insecurity, and **Alan Wolfe**, **Fouad Ajami**, **Milton Bearden** and others who try to help readers understand the new war.

• **Nayan Chanda**, a former editor of *The Far Eastern Economic Review*, and **Strobe Talbott**, a deputy U.S. Secretary of State under President Clinton, edited another collection of essays in "The Age of Terror: America and the World After September 11" [New York: Basic Books]. Samples: **Charles Hills**, a former aide to several Republican secretaries of states, argues that when terrorists attacked U.S. targets during the Clinton administration—Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, embassies in East Africa and the U.S.S. Cole—justice was promised but no effective action was taken. **Paul Bracken**, a Yale professor of management and political science, writes that Sept. 11 did not prove bankruptcy of U.S. intelligence services because, he contends, the CIA and National Security Agency have been improving in a number of areas for years. Historian **Paul Kennedy** says American influence in the world may diminish in coming decades, and he emphasizes the

long-term value of the United Nations.

• Reviewing "Them: Adventures With Extremists" [New York: Simon & Schuster] in *The Washington Post*, **Jonathan Yardley** comments: "British journalist **Jon Ronson** has managed to write a hugely amusing book about the lunatic fringe in which one of the most amusing characters is Omar Bakri [Mohammed], who delights in calling himself 'bin Laden's man in Great Britain.'" In the author's words: "For Omar Bakri, and for Osama bin Laden, the war is not between governments. It is between civilizations. They considered the financial traders who worked inside the twin towers to be the foot soldiers, conscious or otherwise, of the New World Order, an internationalist Western conspiracy conducted by a tiny, secretive elite, whose ultimate aim is to destroy all opposition, implement a planetary takeover, and establish themselves as a World Government."

The author explores the world of conspiracy theorists that leads him to places where people believed "the world was being secretly ruled by a clique of primarily Zionist international bankers, global elitists who wanted to establish a genocidal New World Order and implant microchips bearing the mark of Satan into everyone's forehead." The book profiles extremist leaders such as Thom Robb, Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan; Ian Paisley, the anti-Catholic leader in Northern Ireland's religious conflicts; and David Icke, a former British professional football player described by the author as "the most influential racist on the lecture circuit—if, that is, he is a racist."

ASIA

• A statue of Chairman Mao Tse-tung sits in the London dining room of BBC correspondent **Humphrey Hawksley**, who has reported from Asia, South America and Europe. "It is a conversation piece, certainly not a political statement, yet only Mao could get away with it," Hawksley wrote in the December-January issue of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club magazine. "If I displayed Hitler, Pol Pot or Stalin, dinner guests would think at best that I was slightly odd. Many would walk out. Mao is an instantly recognizable twentieth century figure. Yet our moral compass is unsure where to place him. Mao unified, yet destroyed. He moralised, yet corrupted. He equalised, yet divided. And he slaughtered. It is this contradiction and the fascination that we have with Mao which led me to my latest book 'Red Spirit' [London: Headline Book Publishing]. I wanted to place Mao in a modern thriller, with all the ingredients of suspense, love and accessibility that readers need."

The author said his novel includes "an obsessively compulsive heroine (American, of course) up against one starkly evil baddy, a threatening ex-boyfriend and a loving new one." Hawksley revised his manuscript a dozen times while traveling on BBC assignments from Paraguay to Albania, and he lost 50,000 words when his lap top was stolen while catching a flight to Hong Kong.

EUROPE

• **Anna Politkovskaya**, who writes for Russia's weekly *Novaya Gazeta*, has made 26 trips to Chechnya since 1999
(Continued on Page 11)

OPC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Thursday, April 25, 2002

At the Grand Hyatt Hotel
in New York City

SAVE THE DATE

The Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA